



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

30 June 2003

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section	FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit	Wildlife Division	Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Bob Raney, 112 S. 6th St., Livingston, MT 59047

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is the decision notice for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed stocking of Lizard lake with westslope cutthroat trout. No public comments were received.

It is my decision to proceed with the proposed stocking. This action will convert the fishery from Yellowstone cutthroat trout, which are not native to the drainage, to westslope cutthroat trout, the native trout species. It also will eventually prevent further genetic introgression with wild westslope cutthroat trout in the Buck Creek drainage. Further detail is included in the decision notice.

Questions regarding this decision notice should be directed to me at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region Three, 1400 South 19th Street, Bozeman, MT 59718.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor

*Gallatin
Misc.*

Enclosures

DN 1 LIZARD LAKE



**LIZARD LAKE WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT INTRODUCTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DECISION NOTICE**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
June 30, 2003**

Proposed Action

FWP proposes to stock westslope cutthroat trout into Lizard Lake. This lake was formerly stocked with Yellowstone cutthroat trout, which are not native to the Buck Creek drainage. The native trout, westslope cutthroat trout, have been hybridized with Yellowstone cutthroat trout from Lizard Lake. This action will result in "swamping out" Yellowstone cutthroat trout from the basin, which will protect and preserve the native trout.

In July 2003, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) fisheries crews will conduct gill netting to determine status of the existing population. In late summer 2003, 1,500 two- to four-inch westslope cutthroat trout will be stocked to replace the remaining Yellowstone cutthroat trout to maintain the sport fishery and swamp out Yellowstone cutthroat trout genes in the system.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

FWP assesses impacts of its proposals to the human and natural environments. The proposed stocking of westslope cutthroat trout were disclosed in the May 16, 2003 Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

A 30-day comment period was open from May 16 through June 16, 2003. Public notification of the proposed action was posted on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.state.mt.us>.

Summary of Public Comment

No public comments were received on the proposal.

Final Environmental Assessment for the Lizard Lakes Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Introduction

The EA and this Decision Notice will serve as the final document.

Decision

Based on the information in the EA, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, stocking westslope cutthroat trout into Lizard Lake.

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment and the applicable laws, regulations, and policies, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Pat Flowers, Region Three Supervisor at (406) 994-4042, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718, or at pflowers@montana.edu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PJF' with a stylized flourish.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor